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25X1

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

West Germany - Poland: Bonn expects to present a note to Poland proposing talks. (Page 1)

Italy: Police unrest reflects the strain of minimizing violence during extensive labor disputes. (Page 2)



25X1

Dominican Republic: Balaguer is facing more political problems. (Page 4)

UN - Arms Control: Seabeds treaty (Page 5)

India: State politics (Page 5)

India-USSR: Sale blocked (Page 6)

Burma: Liberalization rejected (Page 6)

Venezuela: Terrorist kidnaping (Page 7)

European Communities - Israel: Trade arrangement (Page 7)

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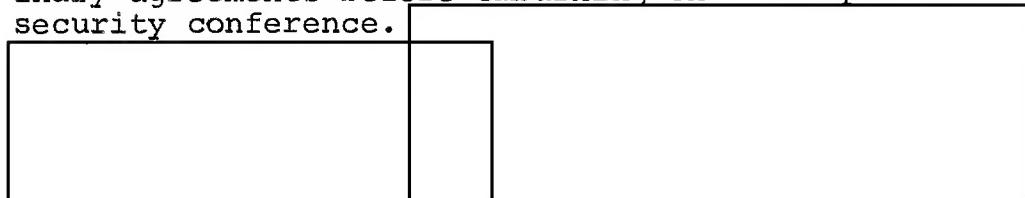
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West Germany - Poland: Bonn expects to present a note to the Polish Government next week proposing talks on the Oder-Neisse line and other questions.

The note will respond to Polish party chief Gomulka's speech last May that proposed a Polish-West German treaty on the border issue, according to Bonn's trade representative in Warsaw. West German Foreign Minister Scheel, however, has stated that the border question is "not the only or first issue" between the two countries. He mentioned the preparatory work required for a European security conference as another prospective topic.

Bonn has deliberately timed its Polish initiative to follow a similar approach to Moscow, to avoid any appearance of trying to circumvent the Soviets. The West Germans also demonstrated their concern for Soviet sensitivities when Scheel informed Soviet Ambassador Tsarapkin of this impending Polish initiative during their meeting last Monday on European security conference matters. Bonn recognizes that if its Eastern policy is to succeed, it must allay Moscow's suspicions. In the past, the Soviets have impeded West German efforts to reach agreements in Eastern Europe.

Bonn thinks the bilateral approach to Eastern European states is likely to win more concessions, and doubtless hopes to secure a series of preliminary agreements before embarking on a European security conference.



25X1

25X1

22 Nov 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

1

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Italy: [Evidence of some police unrest in Milan reflects the strain of trying to minimize violence during the autumn's extensive labor-management disputes.]

[After Milan labor extremists inadvertently killed one policeman and wounded a number of others during Wednesday's general strike, senior officials had difficulty dissuading some elements of the police from revenge. Two of the more irate units have been replaced by police from outside Milan.]

[Police forces in this key industrial center had earlier organized a complaint because of the long hours and emotional strain of the past two and one half months during which repeated strikes were accompanied by public street marches. The public order services in Italy normally show considerable resilience. If for any reason the police should refuse to continue the restrained role they have played thus far, however, the government would immediately be in difficulty.]

[Some uneasiness has already been noted in the government, and there is even talk of replacing the present government with a stronger one. It is not clear, however, how seriously this is being considered. At any rate, the maintenance of law and order is receiving firm support from both conservative and leftist politicians.]

[The strike situation may be eased by the progress that has been made toward new labor contracts in the key economic sectors, including the auto and metal working industries. Housing, the focus of the strike on 19 November, has shown fairly steady progress in recent years and is likely to receive a further boost from increased expenditures in the field recommended by the government on the eve of the general strike.]

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22 NOV 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

2

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Dominican Republic: [The assassination of a popular army major has aroused military dissatisfaction and presented President Balaguer with more political problems.]

[The murder, presumably by leftists, comes at a time when the presidential campaign has already engendered bitterness between the government and the left. Although most military leaders support the President, some have chafed under presidential directives that have restrained retaliation against the left.]

25X1

[Leaders of the leftist opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party are convinced they are being hounded into an illegal existence, and will probably view the latest assassination as another "frameup."]

[The maneuvering for next year's election, in which it is widely presumed Balaguer will run, uncovered the first few chinks in Balaguer's almost solid military support, and he may have to appease the military. Some military officers may construe Balaguer's recent strong attacks against the left as license to carry out reprisals. Rightist plotters would regard the violence resulting from a move against the left as their opportunity to renew coup plotting. They have claimed that only they can save the country from chaos.]

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25X1

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NOTES

UN - Arms Control: Prospects for UN endorsement of the US-USSR draft seabeds treaty have improved somewhat by reason of Ottawa's adoption--after extensive discussions with the US--of a revised article on verification arrangements. Treaty critics, including Canada, had focused their ire on the lack of an adequate inspection provision. The Canadian decision could sway a number of members to support the treaty, should the revised article appear in the final text.

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There remain several insistent countries, led by Brazil, that are not likely to respond favorably even to a treaty so revised.

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India: Congress Party unity in India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, came apart yesterday. Eight cabinet ministers who support Prime Minister Gandhi left the government of Chief Minister Gupta, who had voted against her last week. Factional infighting has been endemic in the state, but the resignations suggest that Mrs. Gandhi's supporters now feel strong enough to topple the government there and try to form their own coalition. Similar tactics are likely to be employed in other troubled state party organizations. This will lead to further unstable multiparty coalitions, and could bring government in several states to a virtual standstill.

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India-USSR: Failure to agree on terms for the sale of Indian railroad cars has temporarily blocked Indian procurement of Soviet TU-154 jet transports. The Indians have long been considering US aircraft, but a deal with the USSR appeared more likely after the Soviets made the freight car sale conditional on Indian purchase of Soviet planes. The US Embassy in New Delhi believes that the USSR is unlikely to drop the matter. The Soviets have pushed hard to sell the aircraft, and may well come up with new terms.

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Burma: The Ne Win regime's strengthening of its commitment to authoritarian socialism will heighten popular disaffection but probably will not trigger any significant resistance. The theme of speeches at a recent commanding officers conference and government party seminar, customary forums for announcing policy changes, was entrenchment and extension of the present system and rejection of liberalization.

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General Ne Win threw out the proposal for a return to constitutional democracy made by a civilian advisory board he called into being a year ago, thus dashing hopes for an easing of the military's monopoly of government positions. Disappointed civilians from earlier civilian administrations, who had professed to see some sincerity in Ne Win's earlier ambiguous remarks about loosening the military's grip, may now be inclined toward civil disobedience. The army is fully capable, however, of handling any disturbances they could mount.

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Venezuela: The kidnaping of two daughters of a prominent radio and TV commentator may have political repercussions. Members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation claim responsibility for the kidnaping and are demanding a \$100,000 ransom. The girls probably were singled out because their father has strongly denounced recent leftist student disorders at Central University in Caracas. The public and the military have been critical of the government's mild attitude toward terrorist groups, and outrage over this incident will increase pressure on the Caldera government to take more forceful action.

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European Communities - Israel: [] the European Communities (EC) believe that agreement in principle could be reached on the remaining problems when negotiations on an EC-Israel preferential trade arrangement resume on 10 December. The text of the arrangement could be approved early next year, and a date set for signature. France had been wary of negotiations with Israel until there was a possibility of talks with Arab states. Exploratory talks will begin with Egypt in late November and EC sources do not expect Paris to block progress on the Israeli agreement. Meanwhile, international trade forums continue to voice concern over the increasing number of preferential trade agreements being concluded by the Communities.

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